



April 30, 2019

Dear Mayor Brand,

We write to you as Fresno clergy and faith leaders representing various traditions and communities across our city. Together, we are deeply encouraged by the promise of bringing Advance Peace to our city, as a much needed opportunity to reduce gun violence and create real alternatives for individuals who need and want them. Many of us have spent the past several months learning directly from those impacted by gun violence and lack of opportunities in our city, as well as learning more about the dramatic results that Advance Peace has seen in other cities. All of us are confident that this is one critical step towards stopping violence and creating peace in Fresno.

We are thankful for the time you have recently taken to meet with us and the founder of Advance Peace, and for your support in concept of a program like this. We know that you have many important decisions to make for your upcoming budget proposal, but we strongly urge you to find and commit to \$300,000 needed to create and build this program for Fresno. To put that in to perspective, studies have quantified the cost to society for each homicide to be over \$1 million (some studies significantly higher), factoring in costs such as policing and health care.

We believe this is an important and critical moment of opportunity for our city. Once the program is established, we and our congregations will do everything in our own capacity to help ensure this program is the success and model we know it can be.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are standing by to support in any way you need and to answer any questions you may have.

In Community,

Rev. Simon Biasell, Presbytery of San Joaquin
Rev. Sharon Avril, Carter Memorial AME
Rev. DJ Criner, St. Rest Baptist Church
Rev. Anna Lopez
Rev. Raygan Baker, Big Red Church UCC
Sukaina Hussain, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Central California
Rev. Dn. Dr. Matthew Jendian, St. Paul Armenian Church of Fresno
Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer, RJE
Rev. Booker T. Lewis II, Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
Fr. Brian Culley, St. Anthony Mary Claret
Rabbi Rick Winer, Temple Beth Israel
Pastor Joby Jones, Grace & Truth MBC
Andrew Feil, Every Neighborhood Partnership

Hajj Reza Nekumanesh, Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Rev. Tim Kutzmark, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
The Very Rev. Ryan Newman, St. James Episcopal Cathedral
Rev. Zachary Darrah, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries
Rev. Deacon Allan Y. Jendian, St. Paul Armenian Orthodox Church of Fresno
Rev. John Supino, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
Jim Grant, Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno
Rev. Steve Ratzlaff
Dr. Darren Duerksen, Fresno Pacific University